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MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Eugene A. Laurent, Ph.D., State Director

DATE: July 30, 2009

RE: Important Meetings About Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver Changes and New Day Services

On July 17, the South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs approved changes to some services available through the MR/RD Waiver. This is a result of the devastating state budget reductions DDSN had last fiscal year. While some MR/RD Waiver services will remain the same, there will be limits and changes to other waiver services. In addition, to give consumers and families more service choices, DDSN has developed five new day services. Attached are summaries of the waiver service changes and the new day services.

DDSN is offering informational meetings across the state for consumers, families and staff to learn more details about the changes and new services. They will be led by Dr. Kathi Lacy and Ms. Janet Priest.

DISTRICT I

P.O. Box 239
Clinton, SC 29325-5328
Phone: (864) 938-3497

Midlands Center - Phone: 803/935-7500
Whitten Center - Phone: 864/833-2733

9995 Miles Jamison Road
Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: 843/832-5576

DISTRICT II

Coastal Center - Phone: 843/873-5750
Pee Dee Center - Phone: 843/664-2600
Saleeby Center - Phone: 843/332-4104

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, August 4, 6:00-8:00 PM – Conway Library, 801 Main Street, Conway, SC 29526

Tuesday, August 11, 6:00-8:00 PM – Pee Dee Center Multi-Purpose Bldg., 714 National Cemetery Rd., Florence, SC 29506

Tuesday, August 18, 6:00-8:00 PM – Coastal Center Gym, 9995 Jamison Rd., Summerville, SC 29485

Monday, August 24, 6:00-8:00 PM – University Center of Greenville Auditorium, 1st floor, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29607-2544

Tuesday, August 25, 6:00-8:00 PM – Midlands Center Training Center, 8301 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203

Tuesday, September 8, 6:00-8:00 PM – Bamberg County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, 16553 Heritage Highway, Denmark, SC 29042

Tuesday, September 15, 6:00-8:00 PM – Burton Center, 2605 Hwy. 72/221 East, Greenwood, SC 29649

Your assistance is needed to announce these meetings and to encourage the attendance of consumers, family members and staff who could benefit from the new day services or be affected by the MR/RD Waiver changes. **Please distribute this information as widely and quickly as possible.** We realize this is a short timeframe. Let's all do the best we can.

Thank you for your help. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Attachments

cc: Commission Members

DDSN DAY SERVICES

DDSN and its network of providers have rendered day services to people with disabilities for nearly 30 years. As the field for supporting people with disabilities in day services has changed over time, so too has DDSN's service delivery options in day services changed. DDSN recently received approval from the state Medicaid agency and CMS to begin phasing out the three traditional day service options currently available: day habilitation, prevocation, and supported employment. We are phasing in five brand new day service options: day activity, community service, career preparation, employment and support center. DDSN sought this approval in order to allow participants to have greater flexibility and more choice and control of services while maintaining both work and non-work oriented options for services (see attached charts). Participants and their families will not lose services but gain additional options geared toward achieving their goals. Full implementation will be complete by December 31, 2009. DDSN is encouraging a quick phase-in because the new services provide people with more options without the loss of any support.

The new day services options allow participants to receive services on a half-day versus whole day basis and the opportunity to mix and match day service options that meet their needs while offering more flexibility and choices. The five new services are:

1. Day Activity provides interventions to aid the person to achieve maintain, improve or prevent the loss of his/her personal care, social or adaptive skills. Through this service, participants can improve or maintain their ability complete their own care, improve interpersonal relationships, or learn to control his or her own behavior.

Participants in the Day Activity Service would consist of those individuals who are not interested in acquiring vocational skills or working but need/want to enhance or maintain personal and social skills. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activity centers of interest during the course of the day that would facilitate the acquisition of identified skills. Activities available from an endless list might include; exercise, music, cooking, arts and crafts, pet therapy, games, daily living skills, money management role playing, etc. Participation in these activities will enhance the quality of their daily lives as well as improve their personal and social skills.

2. Community Services provides interventions to develop a person's awareness of, interaction with, and participation in his/her community. Skills such as self determination, self advocacy and socialization along with other skills necessary to successfully participate in the life of the community are taught.

Community Service provides participants life skills training in a natural setting within their local community. The participant will be involved in various awareness and participation activities within their community. A sampling of community activities may include, specific to the individual's community, activities such as; recreation, navigation, consumerism, community service, volunteer, financial, etc. Participants will acquire a sense of "belonging" within their community as they become aware of and participate in the local community activities of their interest.

3. Career Preparation provides interventions to prepare participants for jobs or a career by providing exposure to and experience with various jobs and careers. Career interests are determined and the interpersonal skills necessary for successful job placement are taught.

Career Preparation Service would be recommended for all participants that want to work regardless if they have worked before or have never worked but are in need of employment skills. Those participating in Career Preparation Service would be provided pre-employment skills, community based instruction, career and benefits counseling, self advocacy skills and on-the-job training. Career preparation and planning opens up greater employment opportunities for those seeking employment.

4. Employment services provide interventions to enable the participant to work including locating/developing a job, supervision, and training to sustain the job.

Employment Services provides opportunities to individuals desiring to become as self sufficient and independent as possible. Employment Services provides assistance in acquiring and training in integrated community job placement. Vocational skills acquired through individual or group placement are necessary for anyone aspiring to live independently and attain a conventional lifestyle within their community.

5. Support Center is designed to provide care and supervision in a group setting. In this setting activities are available for self-selection and participants are provided types of assistance or care needed along with the level of supervision determined to be needed.

Support Center Service is available for those individuals that are not interested in acquiring vocational or habilitation skills, but need a safe and comfortable place to be during the day or part of a day. Support Center Service participants will receive individual identified care and supervision and an opportunity to participate in daily activities of their choosing.

More information is available on the DDSN website www.ddsn.sc.gov by clicking on "about DDSN" and selecting "Directives and Standards". The new day service options are listed under current standards. If you do not have access to the internet, you may ask your service coordinator about the options available.

July 13, 2009

OLD DDSN DAY SERVICES OPTIONS 1991 - 2009

DAY
HABILITATION

OR

PREVOCATION

OR

SUPPORTED
EMPLOYMENT

NEW DDSN DAY SERVICES OPTIONS

